United Nations E/2015/NGO/1

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Statement submitted by Child Aid Development Foundation International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08505 (E) 110615

Please recycle

Statement

After 15 years of the Millennium Development Goals, a new era in global development is almost here, the sustainable development goals. The sustainable development goals are coming at a time when innovations in technology are not only revolutionising how we communicate, but forcing us to redefine how we engage with the structures that govern us. Do we think the solutions to poverty can only come from those at the top to rescue those at the bottom? From our experience working in rural poor communities, development work is not sustainable when poor people are not connected to decision-makers.

Therefore for sustainable development goals to bring that solution, consultation should start from the bottom with the very poor people. The microphone should be passed on to the poor countries and let the rich countries listen. Across the African continent, communities are actively engaged with grassroots civil society organisations that they trust to have their interests at heart. Local civil society community-based organizations and individuals have been credited with helping the fight against poverty. They are first to respond and continue to address their communities' needs. How much faster would they have been responded to if development organisations actively engaged with them first?

All the tools, trends, and platforms are useless if a cultural shift doesn't happen within international development organisations. More have to be open to public engagement and outside input. Development's elite have to be willing to accept that the wisdom of the masses in the poor communities is an important ingredient to informed decision-making and engaging them to find solutions to their own problems.

The success of sustainable development goals will depend on how well we all communicate and engage. Everyone's voice, from a child, average citizens to local, national and international policymakers and United Nations delegates is important to achieving our development goals beyond 2015. As a famous African proverb states: "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together".

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Statement submitted by Women's Health and Education Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08524 (E) 040615

Please recycle

Statement

Without information, there is no impact of the participatory intervention. We suggest method to fight the poor performance public service delivery is inspired by the Community Driven Development approach. We emphasize participation by the communities served by public services. This approach seeks to enhance beneficiary involvement as a way of strengthening demand-responsiveness and local accountability. We serve about 14 million subscribers in 227 countries and territories, every year. Our e-Health platform WomensHealthSection.com is available in six official languages of the United Nations and ready for various forms of collaborations.

It is indeed my pleasure to submit to you the document E/2014/NGO/53 recently published by the Economic and Social Council, and introduce our work and its non-profit entity Women's Health and Education Organization, Inc. in maternal and child health with the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

The Women's Health and Education Center, in support of United Nations Secretary-General's initiative Every Woman Every Child, is developing e-Health educational programs, in close collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including partner countries; the H4+ agencies (United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Bank Group); civil society organizations; bilateral and multilateral development partners; foundations; private sector and others working in the areas of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. Our organization will support countries in their efforts to mobilize additional domestic and international resources required to scale up and sustain essential health services for women, children and adolescents.

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Statement submitted by Association mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08525 (E) 110615

Please recycle

Statement

Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals were a historic and effective method of global mobilization to achieve a set of important social priorities worldwide. They express public concern about poverty, hunger, disease, unmet schooling, gender inequality, and environmental degradation. Some developing countries have made substantial progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, although the progress is highly variable across goals, countries, and regions.

Why the sustainable development goals?

The idea of the sustainable development goals has quickly gained ground because of the growing urgency of sustainable development for the entire world. Although specific definitions vary, sustainable development embraces the so-called triple bottom line approach to human wellbeing. Almost all the world's societies acknowledge that they aim for a combination of economic development, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, but the specific objectives differ globally, between and within societies.

What is the importance of the sustainable development goals?

The Millennium Development Goals were targets for poor countries, whereas the sustainable development goals are the interest of the entire planet. In fact, sustainable development goals should give a response to what the entire world should do for the wellbeing of the entire world.

Conclusion

The sustainable development goals can benefit from the success and failure of the Millennium Development Goals. In fact, all the Millennium Development Goals have not been attained till now, even if many progress has been achieved. It is important to learn from the weakness of the Millennium Development Goals to improve the sustainable development goals in many fields.

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Statement submitted by Amis des étrangers au Togo, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08526 (E) 110615

Please recycle

Statement

The Millennium Development Goals have 8 goals to achieve: eradicate extreme hunger and poverty; achiever universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. Therefore, it was more realistic.

The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals proposed 17 goals: poverty eradication everywhere; hunger eradication; a healthy live and good well-being for all; qualify and inclusive education; gender equality; water for all; energy for all; economy growth and decent work for all; infrastructure resiliency; inequality reduction within and between countries for the world, which are based on sustainable development. At the same time, it also has challenges such as polarization of economy, society, environmental threats and governance failure worsening.

To achieve social development, economic and environment goals in the post-2015 era there needs to be strengthening of several efforts. Effective policy is needed to strengthen the sustainable development gaols. So every country must plan awareness programme on the sustainable development in the transition period. This would require some competences, training and human resources. But government must be engaged in this processes, organize the civil society and collaborate with them in good faith.

The effective policy approach for the sustainable development gaols is to increase participation of all citizens without discrimination in the decision-making processes and gather people's ideas and opinions for the problem concerning them. As they are better placed to know exactly what they need and how to handle and solve their problems. In addition, education policy needs reform.

What institution adjustment is needed and must be done during the transitional period?

We know that every country is different. Each country needs to evaluate whether it has human resources for the implementation of the sustainable development gaols. If necessary, jobs should be created for this purpose. The inclusive policy obliges to share responsibility between government and the United Nations, the United Nations and civil society, Government and civil society without forgetting the private sector.

The transition period, from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development gaols, should be the period for raising awareness, for legislative reform and for institutional reform. But this cannot be done without financial support to developing countries and without specialist expertise. We propose to accredit CIVICUS to provide personnel to the United Nations Development Programme as consultants in every country and the United Nations system to assist, orient and collaborate for the success of this transition.

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Statement submitted by Center for Global Nonkilling, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08528 (E) 040615

Please recycle

Statement

In a statement to the 27th session of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/27/NGO/114), we provided arguments for the inclusion of the prevention and reduction of killing in the post-2015 development agenda. We thus welcome the inclusion in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals proposal for sustainable development goals of target 16.1: "Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere" and encourage all parties to include such a goal in the final outcome document and in the wider post-2015 developing agenda.

We consider the right to life and therefore the duty not to kill as the moral and legal support of target 16.1. We have the knowledge needed to drastically reduce levels of violence and build killing-free societies. Last September, a World Health Organization conference at the University of Cambridge explored "Global Strategies to Reduce Violence by 50% in the Next 30 Years" and its Global Status Report on Violence Prevention (December 2014) presented an encouraging 16% global decline of homicide rates since the 2002 World Report on Violence and Health; a decline which can be connected to successful implementations of prevention practices. We have also published a wide range of supportive cross-disciplinary studies.

Significant know-how exists within the United Nations and its Member States, including prevention and reduction of killing which as a measurable component of sustainable development goals will bring about the necessary social, political and institutional momentum needed to put violence prevention policies, programs and strategies into effective practice. Failure to seize this opportunity for building safe killing-free communities worldwide may jeopardize other development goals, as already established in General Assembly resolution 63/23.

We hereby call for:

(a) Setting baselines and targets for the prevention of violence in general with an emphasis on measurable lethal violence;

(b) Scale up prevention programmes that have been proven successful;

(c) Ensure that existing laws relevant to violence prevention are fully enforced;

(d) Tracking progress toward its reduction and eventual elimination by strengthening data collection. For this to happen and for the wider target of sustainable development goal 16 to be fulfilled, a shift of attention toward prevention must occur at the United Nations and in Member States;

(e) Funding and staffing for the United Nations agencies and departments working on prevention of violence should be expanded and violence prevention shall be considered a transversal component for action across the United Nations system. Ministries and infrastructures for peace, disarmament and non-killing are needed in every country;

(f) Specific constitutional provisions such as Japan's Article 9 or other legislative measures need to be adopted by Member States, thus taking constitutional and legislative action to embark on the transition towards non-killing peace, collective security, disarmament and development.

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Statement submitted by Ecoforum of Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08529 (E) 120615

Please recycle

Statement

Covering 22 percent of the earth's land surface and home to around one billion people, mountains provide vital goods and services such as freshwater, which sustain the well-being of roughly half of humanity.

The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development brought global attention to mountains by recognizing the need to strengthen knowledge and promote sustainable development of mountain regions. The Millennium Development Goals helped promote global awareness and political action leading to substantial progress in reducing poverty in various countries and regions.

However, recent studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Mountain Partnership indicate that, despite notable progress, poverty is still prevalent in mountain regions.

Building on the progress of the Millennium Development Goals, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals contain three targets that specifically address challenges faced by mountain peoples and environments in two goals, 6 and 15.

We urge the Member States to support keeping the three targets and to monitor their implementation through indicators, given mountains' vital role in sustainable development. Moreover, we call on Member States to support the recognition of mountains as crucial to achieving a water-secure world and to place greater emphasis on fragile mountain ecosystems where populations are still facing poverty and hunger.

We encourage Member States to reflect on the past progress of the Millennium Development Goals to design more inclusive and transparent policy mechanisms to promote improved lives and livelihoods of mountain communities. We urge Member States to put mountain peoples at the centre of conservation efforts to ensure their participation in the decision-making processes that affect the environments they call home.

With a shift toward people-centric approaches and the belief that mountain peoples are the true custodian of ecological diversity in mountains, we invite Member States to reflect in the post-2015 development agenda the need to fully integrate in national sustainable development plans and strategies the mountain knowledge systems that promote harmony with nature.

We call on Member States to increase investments in producing reliable, timely and accurate data that improve monitoring, evaluating and reporting the progress achieved on the mountain targets.

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Statement submitted by Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08530 (E) 120615

Please recycle

Statement

As reflected in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future" (E/2014/61), in reaching the Millennium Development Goals the three overarching priorities are:

(a) to accelerate progress to achieve the targets;

(b) to narrow the achievement gap between and within countries; and

(c) to consolidate the gains achieved while addressing new and emerging development challenges to smooth the transition to the post-2015 development agenda.

In the same report the role of institutions is emphasized as facilitators and enablers of progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals wherein the institution is defined as the set of rules or norms that have emerged to guide the actions of individuals, firms, societal and economic actors and nations, individually and collectively. Within the scope of the overarching priorities and the perspective view of the role of institutions, a major worry noted on the field and that may further hinder the smooth transition process is that of biased knowledge spread and highly significant ignorance amongst the vulnerable community beneficiary populations.

These problems come about through the failure in:

(a) biased local government leadership to effectively communicate current legal disposition and other resources' obtaining rights to the locals;

(b) the will of "fair play" of government leaders because of greed and desire to consolidate power for selfish reasons against the vulnerable populations; and

(c) adequate mechanisms and non-governmental led support initiatives to fully educate and sensitize vulnerable populations on their rightful obligations and privileges in contributing to development processes for the Goals.

How Should Institutional Role face these Challenges for the Transition?

(a) In accelerating measured progress towards meeting targets, there is a need for the obligatory placements of norms within local government leadership guidelines that obliges them in communicating right-based knowledge to their vulnerable populations;

(b) In narrowing the achievement gap between countries, there is a need for transparent and accountable, sponsored and structured progress interchange networks of both government and non-government assessment bodies between particularly vulnerable communities within different countries;

(c) In consolidating gains achieved within emerging development challenges for the transition. There is need to engage full government and non-governmental efforts in a holistic manner towards transcribing high level policy dictums into locally understood texts and dialects easily appreciated by the poor community.

The high-level segment of the 2015 session of the Council should adequately address the institutional positions of such national and local government responsibilities in fostering community rights-based knowledge of their local populations' development potentials and the value of their contributions towards the Goals.

15-08530

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Statement submitted by Foundation for Human Horizon, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08531 (E) 040615

Please recycle

Statement

Promoting collective mindfulness within Member States and stakeholders is key to successful transition of the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals.

Collective mindfulness has five dimensions, which includes reluctance to simplify, sensitivity to operations, commitment to resilience and deference to expertise. Member States should be preoccupied with all failures, especially small ones. Small things that go wrong are often early warning signals of deepening trouble and give insight into the health of the whole system. We have a tendency to ignore or overlook our failures (which suggest we are not competent) and focus on our successes (which suggest we are competent). Reluctance to simplify refers to the Member States' expectations to help States simplify the Millennium Development Goals and steer States away from disconfirming evidence (i.e. we see what we expect to see, we see what we have labels to see, and we see what we have skills to manage). As collective mindfulness efforts we need to create more varied and differentiated expectations in order to better understand what we face.

Our goal is requisite variety. Sensitivity to operations includes members to speak up (knowledge lies between heads); encourage others to speak up and ask questions; check for comprehension; acknowledge what you hear; be aware of how you react to pressure; tell others, verbalize your plans; reduce pressure by changing importance, demands and abilities; and over learn new routines.

Stakeholders need to adopt attitude of wisdom, which includes the more you know, more you don't know; avoid overconfidence, over caution, near miss-danger in guise of safety, safety in guise of danger. Stakeholders also need to practise respectful interaction, which means provide trustworthy reports; trust the reports of partners; resolve differences while maintaining self-respect. The last dimension is of deference to expertise. Stakeholders need to shift decisions away from formal authority toward expertise and experience; they need to have flexible decision making structures; their networks do not have a fixed central player who can mistakenly assume that she/he knows everything. Decision making migrates to experts at all levels of the hierarchy during high tempo times.

Stakeholders need to work together in ways that combine technical expertise and democratic representation. Global problem-solving networks for sustainable development — in energy, food, urbanization, climate resilience, and other sectors — will therefore become crucial new institutions in the years ahead. New social media and information technology have given the world an unprecedented opportunity for inclusive, global-scale problem solving around the main sustainable development challenges. Scientists, technologists, civil society activists and others are increasingly turning to online networks for collaboration, crowdsourcing, group problem solving, and open-source solutions such as for software and applications.

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Statement submitted by International Federation of Psoriasis Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08532 (E) 120615

Please recycle

Statement

Health is central to development. That was made clear to the world as three of the eight Millennium Development Goals were developed to be directly related to health, and as stated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development "sustainable development can only be achieved in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases".

To successfully manage the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, health for all people, not just a privileged few, must continue to be a global priority. This can only happen if the sustainable development goals are truly inclusive and relevant for all, including persons with disabilities and non-communicable diseases.

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population, and that the outcome document of the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Disability held in September 2013 calls for a disability-inclusive development agenda post-2015, we request attention on the inclusion and equitable representation of all people with disabilities from all regions of the world. Disability needs to be included in the targets and indicators for Goal 1 (eradication of poverty) and Goal 3 (health) of the proposed sustainable development goals. Without due attention to persons with disabilities, the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals will not be inclusive.

Recognizing that psoriasis is a disabling non-communicable disease, the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations requests Member States to ensure that no person is left out in the transition to sustainable development goals, including persons with disabilities and persons with non-communicable diseases — especially within target 3.8 on universal health coverage. As stated in the World Health Organization resolution WHA67.9, psoriasis is a chronic, non-communicable, painful, disfiguring, and disabling disease for which there is no cure. The world we want is where no one, including people with psoriasis, gets left behind and therefore we request that Member States have an inclusive and holistic approach to health and disability, to ensure a successful transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals.

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Statement submitted by Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08533 (E) 050615

Please recycle

Statement

The high-level political forum on sustainable development is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development. It provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations. It follows up and reviews the implementation of sustainable development commitments and, as of 2016, the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. It addresses new and emerging challenges, promotes the science-policy interface and enhances the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

We need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

There is an urgent need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

Community members and corporate organizations are at the centre of sustainable development and, in this regard, need commitment to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all societies.

Good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment for local authorities are essential for sustainable development. There is an urgent need for strong policy for not harming the natural resources by the industrial sector.

Each community should be responsible for its own economic and social development and the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies. There is a need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development.

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Statement submitted by African-British Returnees International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08535 (E) 120615

Please recycle

Statement

There is a need to draw lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals to address the multiple interlinked global challenges of eradicating poverty, ensuring environmental sustainability, achieving economic equity, ensuring gender equality, tackling climate change, managing equitable distribution of natural resources, realizing human rights and reducing inequality within populations.

There should be a single set of international development goals putting poverty eradication as the overarching focus of sustainable development. The principles of participation, accountability, equality and non-discrimination must cut across any post-2015 framework.

The means to achieve sustainable development visions include:

(a) Awareness-raising, education, changing behaviours and perceptions from the Member States.

(b) Capacity development at all levels for integrated, inclusive, coherent planning within and across sectors and groups that address trade-offs.

(c) Creating sustainable development economic incentives through fiscal reform, regulations and standards.

(d) Finance, leveraging limited public resources strategically and catalysing larger pools of private finance from the private sectors through the United Nations Global Compact signatories.

(e) There is a need to map and review other relevant initiatives and sustainable development goals conceptual frameworks on a stipulated periodic time frame using e.g. Independent Research Forums and the United Nations Technical Support Team to the Open Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals.

An analytical framework for sustainable development goals should entail:

(a) Reflect priority sustainable development areas and be limited in number.

(b) Capture inter-linkages/clusters of goals and multiplier effects.

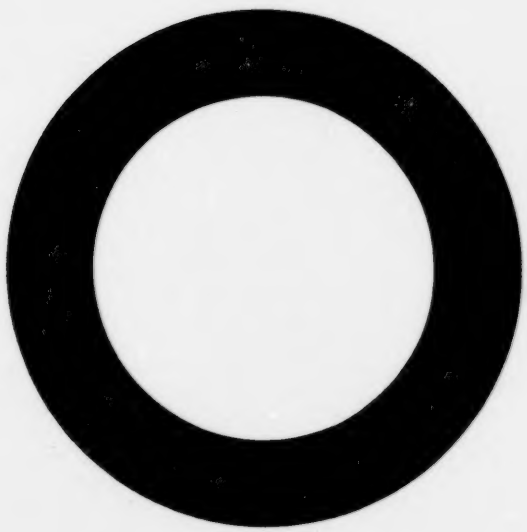
(c) Be action oriented, concise and easy to communicate.

(d) Be universal and applicable across country contexts.

(e) Be accompanied by targets and indicators that consider different national capacities and levels of development.

Any successor to the Millennium Development Goals should have sustainable development at its heart. It should build on lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals as well as take into account shortcomings, specifically their failure to address structural causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion, and shortcomings especially in Millennium Development Goal 7 to address environmental sustainability. It should incorporate the aims of the existing initiatives which seek progress in all areas related to sustainable development, bringing together disparate frameworks, and create an enabling environment for greater progress within it.

Fundamentally, any global development framework must be based on, and fully ensure, equal enjoyment of all human rights for all people.



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Statement submitted by Aube nouvelle pour la femme et le développement, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08510 (E) 100615 190615

Please recycle

Statement

Sustainable development must be understood as development that meets the needs of present generations without jeopardizing those of future generations. To that end, it will have to meet five basic needs: food, housing, clothing, health and education. These five needs are a necessary but not sufficient condition, for there are other needs that may be grouped under the broad heading of democratic freedoms (freedom of expression, equality between the sexes and between ethnic groups etc.). Ideally, such development is expected to bring about an increase in income per dwelling, better housing, food, and public services such as drinking water and school construction and improved social services provided by the State and non-governmental organizations in an environment respectful of democratic freedoms. Therefore, sustainable development will be possible only with respect for the environment, relying first on the country or region's own resources; and any political system that enslaves humans, including dictatorship and racial discrimination, must be denounced.

Environmental protection:

(a.) Build technical and scientific capacity by effectively implementing the principle of technology transfer and equitably fulfilling commitments to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

(b) Training and awareness: leverage acquired knowledge, improve farming and wildlife management techniques, involve and empower local communities in the rational management of natural resources.

Anti-poverty:

The number of people living on a daily income of less than one US dollar.

- Support self-help initiatives for the disadvantaged;
- Build the autonomy of self-help organizations and seek to alter social structures that engender poverty;
- An anti-poverty strategy that supports self-help must be implemented in such a way that external aid is integrated into the local self-help process.

Health promotion and protection:

- Put in place a preventive programme to give communities the means of meeting their own needs by offering health services;
- Emphasize participation (protection of vulnerable groups, 30 to 70% improvement in their health indicators by the year 2025).

Promotion of gender equality:

- Eliminate constitutional, administrative, social and economic barriers that hinder women's full participation in public life; women should have opportunities equal to men's in all of their endeavours in society;
- Be proactive in opening up decision-making positions to women;
- Literacy, education, training: women need to know how to read and write, but they must also be encouraged to go into science and technology on the same footing as men.

Promotion of education and training:

- Promote training, with an emphasis on trades training;
- Overcome shortcomings in knowledge and skills.

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Statement submitted by Gede Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08511 (E) 120615

Please recycle

Statement

While acknowledging that the Millennium Development Goals have achieved several important objectives, the Foundation believes that sustainable development goals will gain traction and be effective if they:

(a) place a significant emphasis on the cross-cutting nature of the key challenges facing people living in extreme poverty in particular;

(b) avoid the silo-thinking and consequent narrow funding channels which sector-specific development targets can often accidentally encourage and institutionalise;

(c) encourage development agencies to evolve and strengthen genuine and long-lasting core competencies (as rigorously defined rather than, as is the case more often than not, lazily assumed), moving away from an over emphasis on Mission and Vision driven approaches to planning and implementation; and

(d) emphasise the need for development agencies to generate, where appropriate, high quality research related to the planning and implementation of poverty reduction initiatives. Perhaps for too long, many development agencies have relied on outdated 'second hand' research to plan and implement their initiatives and this has not helped to address the dynamic causes and impact of poverty.

We have worked with underserved and stigmatised health burdens in Nigeria since 2003 and are currently playing a lead role in:

(a) addressing, through peer reviewed research and policy evolution at the Government level, the links between HIV/AIDS and common mental disorders in order to ensure that care and support regimes are genuinely comprehensive and appropriate to those who need them;

(b) bringing together a wide range of development agencies to address the structural and practical issues related to the cross-cutting impact of common mental disorders (depression, substance abuse and suicidality) on education, health and livelihoods; and

(c) encouraging civil society organisations to reflect on the rigorously defined core competencies they are in the process of developing to ensure that all initiatives are well targeted and ultimately implemented with, and for the benefit of, those suffering from the impact of underserved and stigmatised health burdens. We believe that it is a model agency for the implementation of sustainable development goals.

We believe that the sustainable development goals represent an important opportunity for the Economic and Social Council, and the development community in general, to encourage not only an increasingly holistic approach to development challenges but for the goals themselves to be seen as opportunities to ensure that all relevant agencies are increasingly evidence based, inclusive and focused on structural and "immediate" challenges in their work. Without such an approach, the sustainable development goals run the risk of producing "results" which are uneven and fail to address the structural reasons and immediate manifestations of poverty.

United Nations E/2015/NGO/14

Economic and Social Council

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2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Agenda item 5 (c)
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Society for Upliftment of Masses, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08512 (E) 120615

Please recycle

Statement

Health care requires infrastructure in the form of hospitals, dispensaries, equipment, doctors, nurses etc. within easy reach of population. It has to be ensured that hospitals/dispensaries are not only well staffed and equipped but also well-managed with compassion and care.

The corporate world can make a difference by making "Health" as their preferred activity under corporate social responsibility. They can adopt some villages or urban areas and just as they monitor the growth of their company, they may derive satisfaction by monitoring the improvements in the health status of the target population. Governments may also consider encouraging corporate world to come forward and assist in this noble endeavour by introducing some incentives in taxation.

Pharmaceutical companies should not shy away from their responsibility. They should provide all essential drugs at affordable price by following the golden formula of cost plus nominal profit. However, if they hesitate to come forward on their own, Governments could force them to do so by including enabling clauses in the policy and regulatory framework. Developing countries may also consider setting up pharmaceutical companies in public sector, whereby Government would be able to influence the price at which they sell medicines.

School teachers can make a big difference. They have big influence on their students. They can safely extend this influence to include health awareness and motivate them to adopt healthy lifestyle with healthy food choices and exercise in their daily routine.

College students have to play an equally important role by raising awareness regarding public health issues, hazards of unprotected sex or drug abuse. They may be encouraged by the college authorities to set up health clubs in their institution, which could take up some direct community work, in addition to organising quizzes and contests on health related issues from time to time.

Considering the fact that the network of schools and colleges is much larger as compared to hospitals and dispensaries, school teachers and students together can bring about substantial improvement in the health status of the nation, if this valuable resource is well-utilized.

Last, but not the least, active participation of masses is the need of the hour. Everyone talks about what the Governments should do, what other institutions should do, but nobody talks about what I can do. The transformation has to start from me. The moment we all start contributing a few moments from our life with the sincere desire to make a difference, it will be a different world.

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Economic and Social Council

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Statement submitted by International Federation of University Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08513 (E) 170615

Please recycle

Statement

We express serious concern at the slow and uneven progress that has been made in addressing and tackling illiteracy globally. In sub-Saharan Africa for example, the rate of illiteracy amongst adults has fallen by a nominal 3% in the last 15 years. It is unacceptable that in the 21st century there are still 781 million people in the world who cannot read or write, of whom two thirds are women and girls. Illiteracy is not just a generational issue; there are 123 million 15-24 year old youths today — amongst them 76 million girls — who cannot pick up a book and comprehend the content and knowledge therein. Political commitments to date have not yielded the desired results. Goal four of the Dakar Framework for Action, which calls for a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, has not been met, nor is it likely that goal two of the Millennium Development Goals for universal primary education will be achieved.

A dominant cause of illiteracy is poverty, the effects of which are exacerbated in women and girls, heightening their risk of personal and economic exploitation. Other important factor that influences the significant gender gap in literacy levels include socio-economic norms which see girls and women relegated to the domestic sphere as care-givers and home-makers. Where families are not ideologically opposed to educating their daughters, financial constraints nonetheless often mean that there are only enough resources to send the sons to school. Marginalisation is a major barrier in literacy equity and equality. At-risk groups — particularly disabled, rural, indigenous, migrant and displaced women and girls — face multiple discrimination in accessing learning. For example, literacy levels amongst women with disabilities are estimated to be as low as one per cent.

We believe that literacy is a fundamental life skill and the cornerstone of personal autonomy, social inclusion and economic empowerment. Literacy should be promoted and imparted universally to all people. Educated and literate girls and women are an integral part of sustainable development. Long-term vision, political courage, legislation, and commitment of sufficient economic resources are needed to ensure access to quality, lifelong education for girls and boys, men and women, alike. We strongly urge policy makers to incorporate and implement local, national and international literacy campaigns in the post-2015 development agenda. We recommend the adoption of specific, relevant and measurable targets, including the compilation, publication and dissemination of gender- and age-disaggregated data that evaluate literacy levels of all populations along a continuum. Cognisant of modern-day technological advancements and necessities, states should adopt definitions of literacy that also include financial and digital literacy, as well as functional competencies of reading, writing and numeracy.

United Nations E/2015/NGO/16

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Statement submitted by World for World Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08514 (E) 040615

Please recycle

Statement

We highlight the importance of the catalytic role that the Council is playing to ensure strengthening of the social pillar that would figure prominently in the post-2015 agenda and in the sustainable development goals. In this regard, a two-fold consensus is developing. On the one hand, the post-2015 goals should be ambitious commitments to eradicate the worst deprivations and set the world on a sustainable course. On the other hand, the specific commitments which countries make towards these global ambitions in the form of targets will need to take a more nationally specific approach if they are to be useful as an accountability mechanism.

Reducing both poverty and people's vulnerability to falling into poverty must be a central objective of the post-2015 agenda. It points to a slowdown in human development growth across all regions. It notes that threats such as financial crises, fluctuations in food prices, natural disasters and violent conflict significantly impede progress.

The post-2015 agenda must also take account of the massive global changes that have occurred since the Millennium Development Goals were formulated, including rapid growth in emerging economies, rising global inequality, continued environmental degradation and intensifying competition for resources. It is widely agreed that the world cannot eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustainable development without tackling climate change, thus the processes are seen as mutually reinforcing and linked to the post-2015 agenda.

Agreeing the goals is a challenge in itself, but harder still will be securing the necessary commitments from governments and other actors. Action will be needed from a wide range of actors, and new partnership models between governments and international organizations are essential to deliver the goals, particularly in marshalling the financial resources required. The post-2015 agenda implementation would need concrete action in determining the future we want.

Our priorities and suggestions for the post -2015 agenda are as follows:

(a) Analyse key global economic, social and environmental issues and their implications for the post-2015 agenda;

(b) Review the emerging post-2015 agenda and identify areas where further action is required;

(c) Consider the issues around mobilizing the resources necessary to achieve post-2015 goals;

(d) Improve understanding of the role of partnerships in achieving new goals, through an in-depth look at the health and energy sectors;

(e) Effectively integrating climate change, environmental and justice elements into the agenda, and committing to realizing girls and women's human rights while meaningfully mainstreaming gender equality throughout; and

(f) The agenda, its implementation and accountability mechanisms must be firmly grounded in human rights.

United Nations E/2015/NGO/17

Economic and Social Council

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Statement submitted by Centre africain de recherche industrielle (CARI), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08516 (E) 100615 190615

Please recycle

Statement

The Millennium Development Goals were launched in a climate of uncertainty, States and target populations being unprepared to take up the challenges. For that reason, almost the world over, the pursuit of the MDGs (eradication of poverty, education for all, equal opportunity for men and women, reduction of maternal and child mortality, the fight against HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability, global partnership for development, etc.) was left to intuition and chance.

This goes far to explain the mixed results in most countries, and the present shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs reflect the Post-2015 Development Agenda, whose targets include the promotion of a healthy environment, the fight against global warming, the eradication of poverty in all its forms, etc. We are faced with the need to embark on a revolution that will avoid the improvisations of the past; one that all stakeholders must clearly get behind—Governments at all levels, members of deliberative assemblies, the private sector, opinion leaders, and the population as a whole.

The statistical information needed to eradicate poverty and track development progress must be made available to the target population in a timely manner and in the right format.

As we begin work on the Sustainable Development Goals, special attention will have to paid to technical progress and innovation, which are the basis for an increase in the productivity of the factors of production and the surest guarantee of growth that will lead to development. Centres of excellence will have to be created everywhere, particularly in Africa, where this development requirement is not on the radar of our leaders, development partners or, what is worse, the local intelligentsia. Perhaps the problem lies in a lack of understanding and mastery of the subject.

As we await the adoption and launch of a new development agenda by the General Assembly in September 2015, this question must be placed on the roadmap and bring about a revolution in thinking, which must now be considered an essential factor in development.

Kinshasa, 21/04/2015 — CARI management

United Nations E/2015/NGO/18

Economic and Social Council

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High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Fondation d'entreprise Sanofi espoir, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08518 (E) 040615

Please recycle

Statement

Sanofi-Espoir is tasked with helping reduce health-care inequalities, among populations most in need, whilst applying a socially responsible approach. It focuses on fighting childhood cancer, reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and assuring access to health care for the most deprived populations.

We call for the promotion of global health as a central element of the post-2015 framework. In the context of deployment of Universal Health Coverage, global trends and epidemiological changes create new challenges that threaten development progress, such as Non-Communicable Diseases, which contribute to entrench poverty within countries. While global health occupies a more central place in the international agenda, Non-Communicable Diseases, including mental health, must receive a clear recognition in the post-2015 framework. Naturally, this should not be detrimental to much-needed continued efforts on communicable diseases, vaccines-preventable diseases and maternal and child health. We support the adoption of comprehensive targets addressing chronic conditions, communicable diseases, maternal and child health and universal health coverage.

Development efforts have been hampered by a lack of data about health systems efficiency and the socioeconomic circumstances of individuals. International financing mechanisms have established control mechanisms that foster a culture of transparency and evidence-based decision-making. However, reporting on the Millennium Development Goals remains uneven. We believe that the adoption of more coherent assessment frameworks in the post-2015 era is critical to helping governments track progress. Clear health-sensitive specific targets with allocation of resources and dedicated indicators should be established, capturing access to health care, healthy life expectancy, mortality, morbidity, disability and gender balance.

Success in delivering the post-2015 framework requires explicit alignment between all stakeholders. Stakeholders should have a coordinated approach, acknowledging the shared responsibility of all sectors in supporting both the individual and health-care systems. Greater sustainability can come from coordination across the private sector, ensuring both its commitment to achieve the sustainable goals and its involvement in implementing sustainable solutions that benefit societies as a whole. We welcome the objective to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, through stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships including the private sector. The health industry has a specific role to play, directly contributing to the health of the population and investing to address future challenges, thus contributing to the protection of productive forces.

There is a need for greater support from more developed economies to assist least-advanced countries to give stakeholders the ability to remain viable partners and allow change to occur. Effective policies supporting the development of an enabling environment and fostering trust in partnerships will be imperative to optimize the contribution of all actors. Important challenges limiting joint efforts to strengthen health-care systems include lack of regulatory harmonization, trade barriers, and health-care professional shortages.

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Economic and Social Council

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Statement submitted by WaterLex, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08519 (E) 160615

Please recycle

Statement

WaterLex hereby presents a written statement on the role of national human rights institutions in supporting the transition and future monitoring of sustainable development goals. The statement's purpose is to shed light on the important role national human rights institutions may play in the future accountability mechanism of the post-2015 development agenda, particularly regarding water and sanitation.

Whilst the water-related target enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals has been formally met by halving the proportion of people without access to improved water sources by 2015, significant problems remain unresolved. An estimated 780 million people still lack access to improved sources of drinking water and 2.5 billion people lack access to an improved sanitation facility. The use of human-rights definitions reveal an even more alarming reality: 2.1 billion people lack access to improved water sources and 4.1 billion people are without improved sanitation.

With the adoption of the sustainable development goals later this year, the transition from the Millennium Development Goals offers crucial momentum to advance human rights-based sustainable development. The international community needs to use this unique opportunity to take important steps towards a human rights-based water governance. The proposed Sustainable Development Goal 6 to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" promotes major development outcomes. At the same time, a strong accountability framework is needed to secure the effective and timely implementation of this goal.

National human rights institutions are uniquely placed to ensure a human rights-based monitoring of the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. The unique role of these institutions is to ensure that monitoring is designed to track adherence to the commitments under international and national human rights law. This requires a significantly different methodology to that used to track the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, the mandate of national human rights institutions is not restricted to monitoring and information-gathering. They have constitutional powers to promote and protect human rights.

Several national human rights institutions already have substantial experience in monitoring and protecting human rights in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including water and sanitation. These institutions can play an important role in giving practical effect to the commitments contained in the sustainable development goals at both national and international level. National human rights institutions can inform international accountability mechanisms related to the implementation of the post-2015 agenda and can also influence national implementation of the sustainable development goals. They can act as a catalyst for monitoring that is participatory, evidence based, transparent and accountable.

Therefore, we recommend that national human rights institutions be involved in the Global Expanded Water Monitoring Initiative to monitor the post-2015 development agenda.

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Statement submitted by Confédération des organisations familiales de l'Union européenne, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08520 (E) 170615

Please recycle

Statement

In terms of the development of the post-2015 goals, we wish to emphasize the importance and also the cross-cutting impact of family policies through Member States' priorities in economy, poverty-reduction, employment, gender, education and health.

Well-designed, effective and evidence-based family policies are absolutely crucial for raising millions out of poverty by supporting families throughout the entire life-cycle, from cradle to grave. Financial support in the form of benefits and allowances, combined with appropriate time-policies, such as leaves, time-off work, as well as affordable, accessible and quality services (childcare, elder-care) are at the heart of a well-functioning sustainable society. Sustainability and development cannot be uncoupled from policies and services that support families in all aspects of their lives. Safe and warm, affordable housing, quality education open to boys and girls allowing them to reach their full potential, appropriate support and healthcare to pregnant women and new mothers, healthy food and eating habits, decent work to parents, and appropriate, reliable and quality care to disabled, elderly and sick family members are all prerequisites to a sustainable, healthy and productive society, which will benefit all.

In the development and implementation of the post-2015 agenda, the work must be based on transparency, partnership and communication between all involved actors, special focus must be placed on family policies targeting among others gender equality and women's participation in the labour market. In addition to the economic struggles of recent years which took its toll on families and their economic wellbeing, women's situation on the labour market has been weakened that is closely associated with a number of factors, including the absence of available quality childcare and elderly-care facilities, working time pattern developments, lack of work-life balance practices at the company level etc. Equally important are the considerations for children's' rights and the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the respect and enforcement of rights of persons with disabilities, through the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and these have to be reflected in the core of the new sustainable development goals.

We recognise that the sustainable development goals call for the inclusion of more family policies, which not only encourage a better work-family balance, but also enhance the quality of part-time jobs and improve overall business productivity.

We need to rally behind the new sustainable development goals to make a significant improvement to the lives of families globally. We as COFACE (http://www.coface-eu.org/en/) are more than ready to support the United Nations and all its connected institutions in achieving these important objectives.

United Nations E/2015/NGO/21

Economic and Social Council

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Statement submitted by Educational Foundation for African Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08521 (E) 170615

Please recycle

Statement

Educational Foundation for African Women suggests three key areas of intervention/action towards the achievement of the theme for the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council.

They are:

(a) Continued critical review of the Millennium Development Goals in relation to the relevant aspects of sustainable development goals. This will lead to a wholesome synergy between the recent past and the present.

(b) Identification of pivots/springboards in the sustainable development goals that can serve as rallying points for others for more attention/focus. The proposed sustainable development goals are all very interesting and largely achievable. There are however some of these that serve more like a pivot on which some others rest. In our opinion sustainable development goal 5: "Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere." is one such goal. On this hinge the attainment and sustainability of sustainable development goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8. In many countries especially in Africa and Asia women and girls constitute over 70 per cent of the poor. Again they are also those prone to being without food, decent jobs and basic health, education and facilities. Sustainable development goal 13 — "Promote actions at all levels to address climate change" — in our opinion is inherently underpinning sustainable development goals 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15. Industrialization and its ever advancing technological frontier, understandably, has improved life on this planet and remain a crucial index in the "civilization" rating of countries across the globe. The highly industrialized nations are adjudged more developed and "civilized". Industrialization has also created, over the years, serious problems of pollution and if not checked may do very serious damage both to our planet and life on it, now and in the future. The global weather changes have also put in a serious state of flux availability and management of supply of good drinking water. Our intention is not to undermine any sustainable development goal but to suggest a pooling of some for effective implementation.

(c) Periodic review of achievements and challenges in the various sustainable development goals globally. There should always be a periodic review of successes and challenges in the implementation process.

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Statement submitted by Priests for Life, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08562 (E) 180615

Please recycle

Statement

It has been said regarding the Millennium Development Goals that "We treasured what we measured" and that for the post 2015 we should "Measure what we treasure". People are at the centre of development and their lives and health need to be treasured; reduction of mortality rates, especially newborn, child, and maternal need to be measured.

Priests for Life believes that the well-being, dignity and worth of all — every human life without exception — is a core treasure and needs to be the foundation of policies and programs for sustainable development.

It is proven that access to maternal health care, including pre-natal care and skilled childbirth assistance, reduces maternal and new born deaths and adequate nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life — from conception to the second birthday — not only saves the lives of women and children but reduces the devastating impact of stunted growth and malnutrition.

Access to abortion, whether in the context of "sexual and reproductive health" or "reproductive rights" is opposed and restricted by many countries. Access to abortion does not have universal support, is not a universally recognized human right, and does not belong in the post 2015 development agenda.

Abortion is child mortality and can result in physical, psychological, emotional or spiritual harm to the mother. Any indicator that measures access to abortion will conflict with the value and treasure that many countries place on the lives of children from the moment of conception and ought not to be included in the sustainable development goals.

Women, and countries, deserve programs and policies that ensure healthy reproduction. The elimination of malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life and provision of nutrition for all women and adolescent girls of child-bearing age will not only save the lives of women and children and contribute to their well-being, but will improve the economies of countries.

When women of child-bearing age are well-nourished they are healthier and better able to provide nourishment for their child in the womb, able to successfully and exclusively breastfeed, and to make nutritious food choices for their child under age two. When children thrive, they are empowered to become healthy adults who are better equipped to make meaningful contributions to their families, society, and country.

The future we want is one in which every human life is treasured for his or her innate worth and no member of the human family is denied the most basic right — the right to life — through policies that allow individuals to be marginalized and treated as a problem, rather than as potential contributors to development.

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Joint statement submitted by Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo and Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08563 (E) 170615

Please recycle

Statement

In today's globalized world, social inequalities and political discontent have eroded people's trust in governments and institutions. To re-establish this trust in the development agenda, then decisions at all levels must consider the three interconnected pillars of sustainable development — socio-cultural, economic and environmental systems.

Putting people at the center of sustainable development should be the focus of all efforts to move towards a green economy, one that will deliver benefits to all in addressing food, energy and water security, and the sustainable development goals.

We call for a new agenda, where public participation of communities is enhanced and economic decisions are complemented by social and environmental outcomes. Under this development agenda, the social considerations are key to economic prosperity. The system seeks to:

(a) strengthen the local productivity and social fabric of communities;

(b) offer sustainable development education and professional development to communities on a local level; and

(c) promote decision making that enhances public participation and keeps sustainability at its core.

Our ReCrearte program is a good illustration of how local productivity and social inclusion can easily combine to have a positive impact on the sustainable development of the Dominican Republic. ReCrearte is a unique recycling scheme, which offers women, youth and children across the Dominican Republic workshops in recycling waste into art. Upon graduating from the workshops, the program then equips individuals and their communities with the opportunity to launch their own ventures, turning this project into a source of income and entrepreneurship.

Offering reliable sustainable development education is another key part of this agenda. Through its Eco-Huertos program, we support the creation of organic and sustainable vegetable gardens in schools and communities throughout the country. Eco-Huertos workshops educate members about sustainable agriculture and how to maintain a vegetable garden. The program also supports a healthy diet and generates income for the community.

Finally, engaging civil society in development initiatives is crucial to ensure these projects are truly sustainable and lead to the creation of long-term collaborative relationships.

In addition, the role of innovation and the use of information communication technology to enhance public participation in sustainable development policies cannot be understated.

The transition will only happen with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders at every level of decision making. We therefore invite the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council to explore the role that these stakeholders can play and make this new development agenda the landscape of the next 15 years.